44

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

MISSISSIPPI

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH THE

ZION HILL CHURCH, AMITE Co., MISS.

October 5th, 6th and 7th, 1850.

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BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

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ZION HILL CHURCH, AMITE COUNTY, MISS.,

OCTOBER, 5th, 1850.

The Delegates of the several Churches composing the Mississippi Baptist Association, met pursuant to adjournment, with the Zion Hill Church, Amite County, Mississippi. The introductory sermon was preached by Elder H. McKnight, from the eighty-seventh psalm, and second verse.

1st. After a short recess, the Association was called to order by Elder Z. Reeves, who led in prayer.

2d. Appointed Elders H. McKnight and H. D. F. Roberts, reading clerks.

3d. Called for and read letters from twenty-three Churches, enrolled the names of their delegates, and minuted their statistics.

STATISTICAL TABLE OF THE CHURCHES.

CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.	Baptised.	Rec'd by Let'r	Excluded.	Restored.	Dead.	Dismissed.	Whites.	Colored.	Total in Fellowship	Ministers.	Copies of Minutes.	Contributions.	Post-Offices.	Sunday Meetings.
New Providence,	R. Thompson, R. J. Causey,	6	5	1	1	3	8	70	40	110	0	60	$ 8 00	Liberty,	4th
Ebenezer,	L. Perkins, R. Johns,	1	1	0	0	2	2	53	24	77	0	60	8 00	Rose Hill,	3d
East Fork,	R. B. Dickey, J. W. Felder,	0	0	4	0	0	4	63	15	78	0	50	6 00	Liberty,	2d
Zion Hill,	R. Wilkinson, Asa. Cain,	3	9	1	0	1	2	43	12	55	1	50	5 00	Liberty,	3d
Shiloh,	H.D.F.Roberts, J.R.Anderson,	7	1	0	0	0	0	7	66	73	1	50	4 00	Holly Retreat,	3d
Galilee,	R.L. Huff, A. McKenzie,	1	2	1	2	0	4	102	21	123	1	75	10 00	Centreville,	2d
Hopewell,	J. E. Ford, E. Gresham,	0	1	1	0	0	2	27	7	34	0	30	5 00	Meadville,	1st
Marshill,	W. F. Cain, C. Young,	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	1	28	0	40	5 00	Smithdale,	1st
Salem,	B. Carter, F. Allen,	6	5	0	0	0	2	37	10	47	2	25	3 00	Holmesville,	3d
Friendship, Pike co.,	S. Cupsted,	0	0	0	0	0	0	00	00	13	0	15	3 85	Holmesville,	3d
Ramah,	J. Marsh, W. Clark,	0	0	0	0	0	0	00	00	13	0	00	2 00	Smithdale,	
Jackson,	S. M. Brian, A. M. Lee,	8	4	10	6	6	4	18	75	93	0	25	5 00	Jackson, La.,	4th
Mount Pleasant,	Z. Reeves, J. Reeves,	0	0	2	0	0	0	37	4	41	1	45	5 00	Holmesville,	4th
Liberty,	H. McKnight, G. F. Webb,	2	1	0	0	0	3	00	00	125	1	60	6 00	Liberty,	1, 3,
Mt. Zion, Franklin co.,	A. Cloy, J. H. Fleming,	0	0	4	0	1	2	18	5	23	1	20	3 00	Meadville,	2d
Friendship, Franklin co.,	T. Case, C. Robinson,	4	0	0	0	0	0	00	00	34	0	25	3 00	Friendship,	4th
Spring Hill,	W. Seal, Ira F. Austin,	2	1	1	1	3	19	3	22	0	25	3 00	Knoxville,	1st	
Mt. Zion, Copiah co.,	L. Smith, J. Edwards,	5	1	0	0	1	2	00	00	40	0	30	4 85	Brookhaven,	4th
Bogue Chitto,	J. Thomas,	6	3	1	1	0	1	64	18	82	0	40	8 50	Holmesville,	1st
Mt. Moriah,	S. Coker, G. B. Jordon,	1	0	0	0	0	0	00	00	00	0	20	5 00	Brookhaven,	
Sarepta,	J. Lion, E. McCay,	0	1	0	0	0	1	19	00	19	1	20	4 00	Scotland,	
New Salem,														Williamsport, La.	4th
Pierce's Creek,	J. Williams, J. S. Smith,	0	0	1	0	0	1	32	20	52	1	40	4 00	Woodville,	
Mount Olive,	M. Whittington, }	1	0	0	0	3	2	11	5	16	0	20	2 00	Liberty,	4th
	P. Whittington, }														
		53	35	27	5	18	43	647	326	1198	10	815	$ 113	20	

4th. The Association was then organized, by the re-electing of Elder Z. Reeves, Moderator, and Bro. G. P. Claughton, Clerk; Bros. Isa. Cain and J. W. Felder, Tellers.

5th. The door was then open for the reception of churches.

6th. Ministering brethren present were invited to seats with us, and to participate with us in our deliberations.

7th. Appointed Bros. Isa. Cain, R. Thompson and J. W. Felder, a committee on preaching.

8th. Appointed Elder H. McKnight assistant Clerk.

9th. Appointed Bros. G. F. Webb, S. M. Brian and L. Perkins, a financial committee.

10th. Received correspondence from sister associations, as follows, and the right hand extended to their messengers, viz:

Pearl River. Elder W. Fortenberry, with a letter.

Union. Elder W. Mullins, with a letter and package of minutes.

Miss. River. Elders T. M. Bond and M. W. Crestman, with a letter and package of minutes.

Eastern La. Elder G. Mullins, with a letter and package of minutes.

11th. The committee on preaching reported that Elders W. Fortenberry, W. Mullins and M. W. Crestman preach on Lord's day in the order of their names, and that Elder S. Coker close the services of the same.

12th. Appointed a committee to revise abstracts of the History of the Churches, viz.: Elders H. McKnight, A. McKenzie, S. Coker and H. D. F. Roberts.

13th. Appointed a committee of arrangement and revision, viz.: Elders W. Clark, R. Wilkinson and Bro. W.F.Cain, with the Moderator and Clerk.

14th. Appointed on correspondence to sister associations, viz.:

Miss. River. Elder A. McKenzie to write, and Elders H. McKnight, A. McKenzie and H. D. F. Roberts, messengers.

Pearl River. Elder H. D. F. Roberts to write, and Elders C. Magehee, S. Coker and Z. Reeves, messengers.

Eastern La. Bro. G. F. Webb to write, and Elders W. Clark and R. Wilkinson, messengers.

Union. Elder H. D. F. Roberts to write, and Elders H. D. F. Roberts, S. Coker and Z. Reeves, messengers.

The stand being occupied since the introductory by Elders M. W. Crestman and G. Mullins, the association adjourned to 9 o'clock, Monday morning. Prayer by Elder S. Coker.

EXERCISES ON THE SABBATH.

The Congregation met at an early hour, and the Brethren appointed preached to a large and very attentive congregation. Elder W. Fortenberry preached from the latter part of the fifth verse of the first chapter of Revelations. Elder W. Mullins preached from second Timothy, 2d. chapter and 19th verse—after a few minutes recess, the congregation again seated themselves, and Elder M. W. Crestman addressed them from Matthew 6th chap. and 18th verse, and Elder S. Coker closed the services of the day, with an appropriate exhortation and prayer.

Monday Morning.

15th. Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder W. Mullins.

16th. The Committee of Arrangement and Revision, made their report, which was received and the committee discharged.

17th. The roll was called.

18th. Read the rules of decorum.

19th. Reports called for, when the Committee appointed to revise the Abstracts of the History of the Churches, made their

report, which was adopted, with leave for such Churches that have sent up no abstracts, to forward such to the Clerk, to be inserted in the minutes.

20th. Brother J. E. Ford, a delegate from the Hopewell Church, being compelled to leave the association, on account of the sickness of his family, Bro. L. Wharton, the alternate from said Church, was allowed his seat in the place of Brother Ford.

21st. Brother Lyon, the alternate from the Sarepta Church, being compelled to leave, Elder M. Seal, the delegate from said Church, took his seat.

22nd. Corresponding letters to Sister Associations called for, read and adopted.

23rd. *Resolved*, That the Ministers of this Association be requested to hold a union meeting with the *Shiloh* Church, in Wilkinson county, commencing on Friday, before the 5th Sabbath in December, 1850, and one with the Mount Zion Church, in Franklin county, commencing on Friday before the 5th Sabbath in March, 1851, also one with the East Fork Church, Amite county, commencing on Friday before the 5th Sabbath in June, 1851.

24th. Ordered that the Moderator and Clerk sign the certificate of Bro. H. D. F. Roberts' ordination, made out by Elder S. Coker.

25th. The Committee on Preaching reported, that Elders S. Coker, W. Fortenberry, W. Mullins and T. M. Bond, occupy the stand to-day, which report was received and the committee discharged.

26th. The Financial Committee made their report, which was adopted and the committee discharged.

27th. WHEREAS, God has seen proper to remove by death, our beloved Brother, Adoniram Judson, late a missionary of our denomination to the heathen, from the scenes of his earthly labours and trials, to the glorious rest that remaineth for the people of God: And whereas, this Asso-

ciation is desirous of making an expression of the feelings occasioned by this melancholy event, and as a token of our veneration for the character, and appreciation of the labours and services of our deceased Brother,

Therefore, be it Resolved, That this Association has heard with profound sorrow, the intelligence of the demise of Elder A. Judson.

Resolved, That in our estimation, the character of Brother A. Judson, was that of a devoted christian, a faithful servant and a good minister of Jesus Christ.

Resolved, That the labours of Brother Judson, as a missionary to the heathen, the sacrifices and privations endured by him, to promote the Redeemer's kingdom upon heathen shores, render his memory precious, as one of the most illustrious benefactors of the human race.

Resolved, That the blessings of God which have attended the labours of our missionaries to the heathen, and especially the labours of our deceased Brother; indicate to us that the missionary cause is a cause approved of God.

28th. Whereas, there is at this time a great opening, and constant earnest appeals made both from the heathen and our beloved brethren, who are labouring in heathen lands, for the Gospel and more faithful labourers to promulgate the truth of the glorious Gospel, and in consideration of the great want of means in the Treasury of the Foreign Board, to carry out their benevolent and praiseworthy designs,

Therefore, be it Resolved, That this important subject commends itself, with peculiar force to the christian sympathy, prayers and liberal patronage of all who love our Saviour and his Gospel, and we do most earnestly recommend to the Ministers of our Association, to bring this subject before their several churches and congregations, and recommend to the churches to respond to the call of their Pastor, and take up a free-will contribution for that purpose, and send it up to the

Treasury of this Association, to aid in sending the Gospel to the benighted heathen.

29th. *Resolved*, That domestic missions claim our peculiar regard; that circumstances have been and are now transpiring, which call for great efforts to be made by the people of God, to sustain the domestic mission cause; that we recommend to the Ministers of this Association, to present the cause to their respective churches and congregations during the present associational year, requesting the churches and congregations to respond to the same, by liberal free-will offerings to God for the support of said cause, and to send the same up to this association, that the same may be forwarded to such bodies for that purpose, as the association may deem proper, or as the respective churches may direct.

30th. *Resolved*, That this association tenders its unanimous thanks to the brethren, sisters, citizens, and brethren and sisters of other denominations, for the kind and hospitable manner with which they have entertained us and the congregation, during our stay among them.

31st. *Resolved*, That we tender our thanks to the Moderator and Clerk of this association, for the faithful, impartial and courteous manner with which they have each discharged their respective duties.

32nd. Appointed Elder Z. Reeves to preach the next introductory sermon, and that Elder S. Coker be his alternate.

33rd. Appointed Elder H. D. F. Roberts to write a circular letter.

34th. Appointed the Clerk to superintend the printing and distributing of eleven hundred copies of the minutes of this meeting of the association, and that he receive fifteen dollars for his services, and that he draw on the Treasurer for funds to defray the expenses thereof.

35th. *Resolved*, That this association adjourn to meet with the Marshill Church, in Amite county, Miss., on Saturday before the first Sabbath in October, 1851, at 11 o'clock, A. M.

The minutes read and corrected. After which the Moderator addressed the association very feelingly, in a few appropriate remarks. The association sung a hymn, and Elder A. McKenzie led in prayer and we were dismissed.

ZACHARIAH REEVES, *Moderator.*

G. P. CLAUGHTON, *Clerk.*

Ministers of the Mississippi Baptist Association.

Shadrach Coker,	Roland Wilkinson,
Ezra Courtney,	William Thompson,
Zachariah Reeves,	T. Kingsbury,
Wilson Clark,	H. D. F. Roberts,
Alexander McKenzie,	Calvin Magee,
Hamilton McKnight,	Isaac Muse,
J. D. McFarland,	A. Cloy, Licentiate.
Moses Seal,	

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEE.

In the hands of the Treasurer,	$ 2 38		
Contributions of the Churches,	113 20		
Voluntary contribution of members and brethren, &c.,	20 20	—$135	78
CR.—Paid Wilson Clark,	$14 00		
" Moses Seal,	12 00		
" A. McKenzie,	18 00		
" R. Wilkinson,	20 00		
" Liberty Post-office,	25	—$ 64	25
		$71	53
Paid for printing these minutes,	$45 00		
" for superintending the same,	15 00	—$ 60	00
Leaving in the hand of the Treasurer,		$11	53

MEETING OF ASSOCIATIONS, VIZ.:

PEARL RIVER—Meets on Saturday before the second Sabbath in September, 1851, with Magee's Creek Church, Pike county, Miss.

UNION—Meets on Saturday the fourth Sabbath in Sept., 1851, with the Damascus Church, Copiah county.

REPORT

OF THE

STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

The Committee appointed to revise the Abstract History of the Churches, report as follows:

1st. NEW PROVIDENCE.—This Church was constituted on the 27th day of July, 1805, with 12 members, two of whom are still living: Elders Richard Curtis and Thomas Mercer, composed the Presbytery, who assisted in its constitution. The church has been blessed since its constitution with several revivals of religion, in which large accessions were made to its membership—at no time has the church been without preaching, and almost every year has had accessions. The Rev. Thomas Mercer was the first supply of the church and became its Pastor in 1809—Elder E. Courtney served the church as a supply for some time after Brother Mercer ceased to be Pastor.

The subsequent pastors and supplies, are Elders S. Marsh, H. Humble, C. Felder and T. M. Bond. Elder A. McKenzie is the present pastor. The present number of membership is 110.

2nd. Ebenezer.—Constituted on the 9th of May, 1806, with 11 members. Presbytery present, Elders R. Curtis and T. Mercer for a period of six years—the church has no record of its proceedings. Elders E. Courtney, S. Marsh and Asa Mercer supplied the church for many years. Elder J. Young was pastor during a period of twelve years, and Elder T. M. Bond for a period of five years. The present supply is Elder A. McKenzie. This church has enjoyed refreshing seasons and have been abundantly blessed of God. Present membership, 77.

3rd. East Fork.—Constituted at the house of Mr. James Chandler, in Amite county, on the third Sunday in September, 1810. Presbytery present—Elders Thomas Mercer and E. Courtney. The number who entered into the constitution was twelve. In 1812 the church built a meeting house, which was called East Fork Church. This church has enjoyed several seasons of refreshing from God, when numbers were added to the church—after its constitution it occasionally had preaching by Elders Thomas Mercer and H. Humble. *Pastors* since its constitution—Wm. Denman, J. Nettles and Charles Felder. The present pastor is Elder Z. Reeves. The church in 1812, licensed Samuel Boyd and in 1835, Brother T. M. Bond was licensed to preach, and in the same year he was ordained to the full work of the ministry. Elder C. Felder, who served this church as pastor for twenty-four years, departed this life on the 15th of May, 1843. Present membership, 78.

4th. Zion Hill.—This church was constituted the 11th June, 1811, by Elders E. Courtney and Thomas Mercer, with 16 members, two of whom are still living, and she has enjoyed regular preaching, and has had generally a gradual increase with several considerable revivals. Elder Thomas Mercer was

their first *Pastor*. He served the church from its constitution in 1811 to 1817, when Elder John Lee took charge and served them one year. In 1819 they called Elder C. Felder to be their *Pastor*, who served them until 1829. Since then they have had the labours as *Pastors*, of Elders A. S. Mercer, C. Felder, W. Clark, J. Young and Z. Reeves, who serves them at the present time. This church has sent out several young ministers. J. Nettles, G. King, A. S. Mercer, J. Cain and M. Seal, have been licensed and ordained by her, whose labours she has more or less enjoyed. The present number of the church is 55. She licensed and sent out also Thomas Meridith, who has since been ordained, and is labouring on the West side of the Mississippi.

5th. Shiloh.

6th. Galilee.—Constituted on the 14th of August, 1824, with 11 members. Presbytery composed of Joseph Slocumb and Wm. H. Erwin. During several years this church had no preaching, and met but seldom. In 1837 and in 1848, this church was blessed with revivals—in the latter revival 88 were added to her membership. *Pastors* and supplies since its constitution—Elders Joseph Slocumb, Charles Felder, H. D. F. Roberts, Davis Collins, M. Barlow and T. M. Bond. Elder A. McKenzie is the present *Pastor*. Membership, 123.

7th. Hopewell.—This church was constituted on the 20th October, 1813, with 14 members, by Elders H. Wall and Isam Nettles. This church has been blessed with faithful preaching, most, if not all the time, by several ministers, viz.: John Lee, A. S. Mercer, Jessee Young, S. Coker, H. D. F. Roberts, A. Goodale, and Wm. Mullins, who still supplies them. The present membership is 34.

8th. Mars Hill.—Constituted on the 1st Sabbath in June, 1815, with nine members. Presbytery—Elders Thos. Mercer

and Henry Humble. The church has had various refreshing seasons from the Lord. It has called and sent forth in the work of ministry, Elders J. Young and W. Clark. Pastors who have supplied this church, were Elders H. Humble, Asa Mercer, C. Felder, J. Cain, J. Young, W. Clark and S. Coker. Present number, 28—Present *Pastor*, S. Coker.

9th. SALEM.—Constituted August 19th, 1826, with 19 members, at the house of John Dickinson, on Little Tanchipaho, through the labours of Elder C. Felder. The church has enjoyed revivals, and has generally enjoyed peace. *Pastors* since its organization—Elders Jas. Cain, C. Felder, Willis Magee, Z. Reeves, Calvin Magee, W. L. Sibley and T. M. Bond.—Present *Pastor*—Calvin Magee. Membership, 47.

10th. FRIENDSHIP, *Pike County*.—This church was constituted in 18 ——, by Elders —— and ——. They enjoyed regular preaching generally, and one extensive revival, which added greatly to their strength and comfort. Elder S. Coker supplied them to great acceptance, most of the time, during which time they sent out Z. Reeves to preach the Gospel of Peace. They have W. Clark to their ministry, and are in rather a declining condition. Their present number of members is 13.

11th. RAMAH.—The state of the constitution of this church is not reported. Elders S. Coker and Joel Harvey composed the Presbytery, who assisted in its constitution. It was constituted with six members. It has enjoyed but one general revivial. Her general state has been healthy. *Pastors* and supplies since constituted—Elders S. Coker, B. Garlington, J. Young and W. Clark—Brother Clark is the present supply.—Membership at present, 13.

12th. JACKSON.—Constituted on the 27th day of June, 1835, with 13 members. The Presbytery composed of Elders E. Courtney, C. Felder and J. Young, assisted by Elder H. D. F. Roberts.

This church since constituted, has received by letter and Baptism 166 members, and has dismissed by letter 33, and excluded 23, and 27 have departed this life, also three are absent not known where.

Elder H. D. F. Roberts served the church, as Pastor, until 1838, and Elder Davis Collins until 1840. Since that time the church has had the services of Elders A. W. Pool, R. W. Sawyer, E. Courtney, M. Barlow and D. H. Parmley. Elder H. D. F. Roberts, present Pastor—present membership, 93.—This church has sent out one young licentiate minister, A. J. Spencer, who is now a useful minister of the Gospel in the Western part of the State of Louisiana.

13th. Mount Pleasant.—This church was constituted Nov. 28th, 1837, with 22 members, by Elders Z. Reeves and J. Young. They have enjoyed the labours of Elder Z. Reeves ever since she was constituted, and have had some pleasant seasons of refreshings from the presence of the Lord. Their present number of membership is 41.

14th. Liberty.—Constituted on the 14th April, 1838. Presbytery present—Elders C. Felder, Z. Reeves, J. Young, T. M. Bond and A. W. Pool. In 1843, in consequence of the articles of faith upon which the church was constituted, being lost, the church adopted articles, which giving dissatisfaction, the same were changed so as to obviate all objections. The church has enjoyed several precious revivals. Elder H. McKnight, a member, was licensed by the church to preach in 1841, and ordained in 1844. *Pastors* and supplies since constituted—Elders C. Felder, H. D. F. Roberts and H. McKnight. Elder H. McKnight is the present Pastor. Present number of members, 125.

15th. Mount Zion, *Franklin Co.*—Constituted on the 22d day of January, 1820, with 17 members. Presbytery present: Elders C. Felder and Asa Mercer. There have been baptised

into the fellowship of this church 48 persons; 28 have been received by letter and 34 dismissed by letter since its origin. Present *Pastor*, Rev. R. Wilkinson. Membership at this time, 23.

16th. Friendship, *Franklin Co.*

17th. Spring Hill.—Constituted on the 13th of September, 1842, with 11 members, five males and six females, by Elders Jessee Young, Wilson Clark and Moses Seal, and enjoyed the labours of Elder J. Young, as Pastor, the year 1845, when Elder Z. Reeves was called and served them to great acceptance until 1850; they called Elder A. McKenzie, whose labors still continue. They have enjoyed some refreshing from the Lord, and a considerable increase; they are yet a feeble band, but are at peace and are alive to good works. Their present amount of membership is 22, and a good state of feeling exists there at this time.

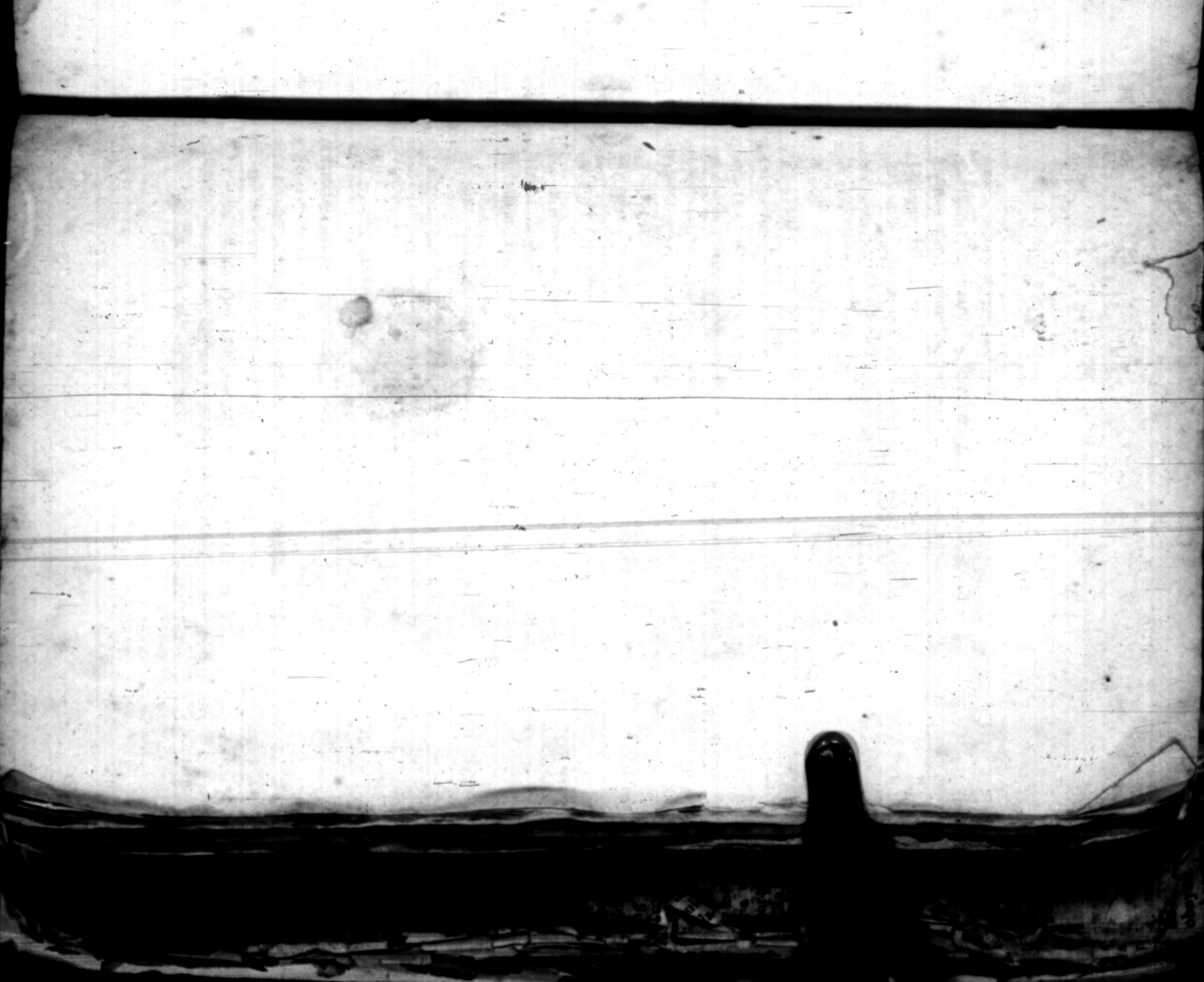
18th. Mount Zion, *Copiah Co.*—Constituted in the year 1823, with 15 members. Presbytery composed of Elders Jas. Bailey, Joel Harvey and S. King. *Pastors* and supplies since constituted: Elders Jas. Bailey, Wm. Martin, M. T. Conn and S. B. Mullens. Present Pastor, S. B. Mullens; number in fellowship, 40. Elder W. Martin, a member of this church, was ordained to the ministry about the year 1830.

19th. Bogue Chitto—Constituted on the 4th of July, 1812, became attached to the Pearl River Association in 1815, and to this association in 1844. The church has had several seasons of coldness, but has also enjoyed much of the presence of God at other times. *Pastors* since organization: Elders Wm. Denman, George King, Wm. Cooper, Shadrah King and S. Coker: Elder Z. Reeves is the present supply, under whose labours the church has gradually increased. It has sent out one licentiate, Brother J. Webb, who became an able minister. Present membership, 82.

20th. Mount Moriah.—Constituted on the 4th of March, 1821, with 7 members; Elders J. B. Hart and Absalom Harper constituting the Presbytery. It has enjoyed regular preaching, and has gradually increased in numbers. *Pastors* and supplies since constitution—Elders J. B. Hart, Joel Harvey, Z. Reeves, James Bailey and S. Coker; Brother S. Coker is the present Pastor. Total in fellowship at this time, 34.

21st. Sarepta.—This church was constituted with five members, by a Presbytery of Elders, D. Cooper and others, and enjoyed the successive labours, as Pastors and supplies, of Elders L. Scarborough, J. Burch, J. T. Fairchilds, T. Spragging, J. Young, W. Clark and Moses Seals, who still supplies them. They have never enjoyed a special revival; yet she has been favored with an occasional addition to her number and general peace and union. They earnestly desire the prayer of the brethren in general. Her present membership is 19.

22nd. New Salem.

23rd. Pierce's Creek.—Constituted on the 13th of October, 1813. No record exists of the number of members who entered into the constitution. The church has had several revivals. There have been received into the fellowship of this church since 1841, by baptism 52 members. The names of the *Pastors* and supplies not communicated. Bro. M. W. Crestman is the present Pastor of this church. Number of members at present, 52.

24th. Mount Olive.—Constituted on the 26th of Sept. 1847, with 14 members, by Elders Z. Reeves, J. Young, R. Wilkinson and M. Seals. She has enjoyed the labours of M. Seals, with occasional visits from other ministers, until 1850, when they obtained the services of Elder R. Wilkinson, who still preaches for them—they are at peace, but have enjoyed no special revival, yet manifest a good lively state of feelings.—Their number of members is 16.